

Attorney Docket: Beiersdorf 696

CONDITIONAL PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

If any extension of time for this response is required, Applicants request that this be considered a petition therefore. Please charge the required fee to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

ADDITIONAL FEES

Please charge any further insufficiency of fees, or credit any excess to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in the application. The claims have been rejected under §§ 112 and 103(a). The rejections are responded to in the order presented in the office action.

As suggested by Examiner in section 1 of the office action, the title has been changed. In addition, a replacement abstract has been added to reflect the change in title.

Indefiniteness

The claims have been amended to define the subject matter as a *plaster*. This term is well known in the art.

It is respectfully suggested that claims 2, 3, 6 and 9 have been amended in accordance with Examiner's suggestion while maintaining the identical scope of the previous claims. In brief, each of the claims indicate that the claimed subject matter possess either one of two properties, or both.

As Examiner suggests, claim 7 has been amended by adding the term "release-promoting" to clarify the term "anti-adhesive."

In claim 8 the term "rapid dressing" connotes a "first-aid dressing." The term rapid dressing may be more fully described as a *rapidly deployable dressing*. It is hoped that this explanation addresses Examiner's concern. If not, new claim 13 is added to describe the

Attorney Docket: Beiersdorf 696

dressings as a first-aid dressing. Persons of ordinary skill in the art would appreciate the backing's suitability for this purpose.

In regards to claims 8 and 9, the basis of the alleged inconsistency caused by claims 8 and 9 using "which is" is not apparent. Reconsideration is requested. Should Examiner maintain this rejection, further clarification is requested.

Respectfully, independent claim 12 is believed appropriate in view of the following remarks relating to the references.

#### Obviousness

Examiner claims that the open-ended nature of the claims broadly encompasses the references' disclosure of adhesive nonwovens. In order to expedite the prosecution of this application claims 1 and 12 have been amended to include the transitional phrase "consisting essentially of." Thus, Reidel's and Joseph's inclusion of adhesive components into the non-woven material itself would not read on the claims, and would alter the principle upon which the claimed plaster is meant to operate.

Independent claims 1 and 12 are now clearly directed toward the backing being a non-adhesive backing material. This cannot logically be viewed as encompassing backing materials that are explicitly disclosed as being at least partially composed of adhesive components.

Examiner emphasizes that Reidel and Joseph describe backing materials that may be viewed as including non-woven materials coated with adhesive, as well as non-woven materials made from pressure sensitive adhesive fibers. Office action, ¶4. However, amended claims 1 and 12 cannot reasonably be broadly interpreted as encompassing non-woven materials that are composed of any adhesive materials.

Thus, the references do not teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejections under § 103 be withdrawn.

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ER Luger TGottlieb


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p.9

Attorney Docket: Beiersdorf 696

Respectfully Submitted,

Norris, McLaughlin & Marcus  
220 East 42 nd Street  
New York, NY 10017  
Telephone (212) 808-0700  
Facsimile (212) 808-0844



Theodore Gottlieb, PhD  
Reg. No. 42, 597

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